

16th March 1970. League Match v. Hendon (home)

Wycombe held but this was much better

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Hendon 0

THE GOAL FAMINE continued, but oh, how the gloom lifted as Wycombe Wanderers prised an Isthmian League point away from Hendon's grudging grasp at Loakes Park on Monday evening (writes Mike Whitesman).

Crisp, clean football made this match everything Saturday's horror at Maidenhead never was. Wycombe, in need of the injured Tony Horseman, still looked as fresh as their pitch which, after such a heavy beating from the weather, was a credit to groundsman, Jock Sheppard.

But it was obvious that manager Brian Lee's 'therapy for the blues' was directly to make an all-out bid for a quick goal.

In midfield, exchanges were lively enough to suggest the possibility, at least, of several goals from somebody, eventually. But it was not to be.

Barry Baker offered the first true shot of the match after four minutes, but England international Rod Haider went nearer for Hendon three minutes later when his attempt was barged down via John Maskell's body.

Trying hard to make amends for his dismissal during the Senior Cup match at York Road, Searle flung a 20-yarder at Swannell, but missed several good chances and couldn't pierce the Hendon defence before half-time.

The Claremont roaders used substitute Ray Poole for Hogwood from the resumption. Yet the newcomer found himself involved in a far scrappier game as passes went astray with increasing regularity in either side's build-up.

The tempo slowed, and the final result — a goalless draw — soon became blatantly obvious.

However, one home point is not as much as Wycombe would have liked in their bid for the 1970 championship, and for the last quarter, they hit back with renewed vigour.

Surprisingly, Keith Blunt was

called off in favour of Vince Faulkner for the last 15 minutes. Yet the pressure reached its peak in the dying stages.

In the hectic few minutes of injury time, Hendon's full-back, Cooper was helped off the field after being dazed in a tackle.

Wycombe's blank scoresheet failed to reflect the forward line's improvement from the previous Saturday.

Yet, just as camouflaged was the ever-present threat of Hendon's two wing men, Peter Anderson and former Walthamstow Avenue star, Paul Collett.

On this pair hung much of their hopes for an away win. They played things safe with defence in depth, but often they showed themselves so slick and efficient in midfield that quick breakaway movements using the Anderson-Collett duo, kept the home back-row alert.

Anderson, who has already refused an offer to sign for Arsenal, was being closely eyed by three League clubs. Representatives of Nottingham Forest and Southend watched the match, while Watford manager, Ken Furphy was there in person, presumably to cast a glance Anderson's way.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; I. Rundle, C. Gale; P. Suddaby, J. Delaney, J. Lailley; K. Blunt (sub.) V. Faulkner, B. Baker, K. Searle, G. Anthony, J. Hutchinson.

Hendon: J. Swannell; D. Hugwood (sub. R. Poole), M. Cooper; D. Shacklock, L. McKendry, R. Haider; P. Anderson, K. Jamieson, J. Baker, J. Wilson, P. Collett.